REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, 21, and 26, which are independent, are hereby amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at paragraphs [0103-0112]. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8, 10, 14-19, 21-24, and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over European Patent 0 913 965 to Mahe (hereinafter, merely "Mahe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,177,950 to Narayan, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Narayan") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,701,427 to Lathrop (hereinafter, merely "Lathrop") and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0103179 to Damm, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Damm").

Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Mahe in view of Naraya, Lathrop, and Damm, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,701,344 to Holt, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Holt")

Claims 9, 20, 25, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Mahe in view of Naraya, Lathrop, and Damm and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,283 to Sitaraman, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sitaraman").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

> "A method of minimizing redundancy in a peer system in a peer-to-peer relay network, comprising:
>
> …building a redundancy update message when said comparison of said first identification information to said second identification information identifies the first message and the second message as the same message,
>
> wherein said redundancy update message is a message indicating that the first peer system is not to receive a new message from the third peer system because the new message has an alternate path to the first peer system,
>
> wherein the redundancy update message comprises information identifying the first peer system as an origin peer system and information identifying the third peer system as a source peer system and indicates that a next message from the source peer system is not to be sent to the origin peer system; and
>
> sending said redundancy update message to said third peer system." (Emphasis added)

Applicant submits that claim 1 is generally directed to reducing future redundant messages by sending a redundant update message to the peer system that would send the redundant message. The redundant update message (from the recipient of the redundant message) indicates to the sender of the redundant message that any future messages from that source peer system do not need to be sent to the recipient. The message indicates that the

recipient (i.e. the peer system that sent the redundant update message) already receives the same messages from a different peer system.

The Examiner uses Mahe, Narayan, Lathrop, and Damm to reject claim 1. The Office Action concedes that Mahe fails to teach or suggest building a redundancy update message, and relies on Narayan, Lathrop, and Damm.

The Office Action states that Narayan teaches sending a redundancy message to a third party peer system. However, the cited portions of Narayan, specifically column 6, lines 54-67, and column 7, lines 20-32, teach sending a name table from peer to peer. The name table is defined as "the mechanism by which each peer participating in the session has information and knowledge of all other peers in the session."

Applicants submit that this does not teach or suggest "sending a redundancy message to a third peer system." The third peer system, i.e., the peer system that is sent the redundancy message, from claim 1, is a peer system that sent a second message including "second identification information" that was compared with "said first identification information". In Narayan, the "third peer system" is just another peer system "that desires to join the session." This "third peer system" is sent the "name table" just as all new peer systems are. This peer system in Narayan does not send a second message including second identification information that is compared with "said first identification information" and therefore, does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Furthermore, the Office Action states that Damm teaches that "a next message is not to be sent to the origin peer system." However, the cited portions of Damm, Figures 1 and 2, show a healthy ring structure and a ring structure with a failure. The ring structure is a bidirectional ring that allows communication in both directions for the purpose of failure

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protection. When a link fails, all the rings are made aware, and any affected traffic is sent in the other direction.

Damm does not teach a redundancy message that indicates that a next message from the source peer system is not to be sent to the peer system. Damm does teach sending a continuously small flow of information to all nodes on the ring to keep up to date information about possible failures.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Mahe, Narayan, Lathrop, or Damm, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For similar reasons as those described above, claims 14, 21, and 26 are also patentable.

III.   DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken

as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address
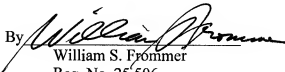
such comments.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with

respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner

specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the

claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to

issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any

overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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